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Factors Involved in an Increased and Improved Shale Output

Factors that would contribute to the fulfillment or even the exceeding of the Fifth Five-Year Plan would be the exploitation of shale seam F, which is not now being worked, and the mechanical cleaning of shale before it is processed. If mines of the Estonslanets Combine extracted the entire shale deposit, including seam F, there would not only be a direct increase in the shale output but, at the same time, production costs per ton of shale would drop 30 percent.

Shale contains three times as much noncombustible matter as coal, and for this reason, it is very important that its quality should be improved by cleaning. However, the cleaning process is carried out by removing the rock manually from the shale.

The lack of effective mechanized cleaning of shale is leading to a deterioration in economic indexes in the processing of shale for household gas. Failure by the mines to meet GOST (State All-Union Standard) requirements for technical conditions for the quality of shale, and the increased rock, fines, and moisture content, is complicating the work of the Kokhtla-Yarve Combine and interfering with the planned reduction in production costs of gas. To eliminate these defects, it is necessary to introduce mechanized cleaning of the shale by the wet-jigging method, which is successfully used in the coal mining industry, as well as other branches of mining. When the shale is cleaned by the wet-jigging method, its organic content goes up to 44 percent, even if seam F is worked, and the productivity of the chamber furnaces for producing gas goes up 28 percent and can be made to go considerably higher.

The introduction of the wet-jigging method of cleaning will solve the moisture problem connected with shale in fall and spring. Although shale does not absorb moisture even if under water for 48 hours, considerable sludge is found in large pieces of shale in the fall and spring. This sludge results from a mixture of water with shale dust. When the shale is cleaned by the wet-jigging method, this sludge is washed out and the shale acquires a normal moisture content of about 10 percent.(1)

SOURCES

1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 19 Feb 53
2. Baku, Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 3 Jan 53
3. Sovetskaya Estoniya, 26 Mar 53
4. Ibid., 24 Mar 53

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